

Senate Study Bill 1187 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION
BY CHAIRPERSON DANIELSON)

1 A Resolution establishing the support of the Iowa
2 Senate, on behalf of the people of Iowa, of an
3 amendment to the United States Constitution
4 restricting corporate participation and
5 contributions in election campaigns.

6 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the
7 Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights
8 of "natural persons", that is, individual human
9 beings; and

10 WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the
11 United States Constitution, and the people have never
12 granted full Constitutional rights to corporations as
13 natural persons, let alone the First Amendment rights
14 of natural persons; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court held
16 in Buckley v. Valeo (1976) that the appearance of
17 corruption justified certain limits on contributions to
18 candidates; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court recognized
20 in Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce (1990)
21 the threat to a republican form of government posed
22 by the corrosive and distorting effects of immense
23 aggregations of wealth that are accumulated with
24 the help of the corporate form and that have little
25 or no correlation to the public's support for the
26 corporation's political ideas; and

27 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Citizens

1 United v. the Federal Election Commission (2010)
2 reversed the decision in Austin, thereby presenting
3 a threat to self-government by eliminating legal
4 limits on corporate spending in the electoral process,
5 thus allowing unlimited corporate spending to
6 influence candidate selection, elections, and policy
7 decisions; and

8 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution
9 empowers and obligates the people of the United States
10 of America to use the amendment process in Article V
11 of the United States Constitution to correct those
12 egregious decisions of the United States Supreme
13 Court that go to the heart of our democracy and the
14 republican form of self-government; NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Iowa
16 Senate, acting on behalf of the people of Iowa,
17 supports efforts to propose and ratify an amendment
18 to the United States Constitution restricting
19 corporate participation and contributions in
20 election campaigns and, to that end, respectfully
21 urges Iowa's congressional delegation to prioritize
22 congressional proposal of an amendment to the United
23 States Constitution to restrict participation
24 and contributions by corporations in election
25 campaigns; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
27 resolution be provided to each member of Iowa's
28 congressional delegation.